

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, the Examiner objected to the drawings as containing a reference numeral 120 not found in the specification. The Applicant has amended the specification on page 4, line 13 to include a reference to collar 120. Support for this amendment may be found in Figs. 2 and 5, which depict the collar 120 that defines ports 165 through which air is exhausted to the atmosphere.

Also, the Applicant has attended to correction of the informalities noted by the Examiner in the specification. In particular, the Applicant has made the amendments suggested by the Examiner on page 1, line 15 and page 4, line 2. Additionally, the Applicant noted a typographical error in the specification at page 3, line 21, which has been corrected by way of amendment to the specification.

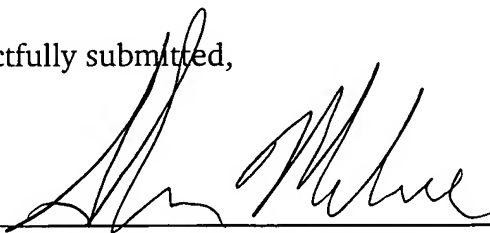
Turning to the substantive rejection, the Examiner argued that claims 1-10 are anticipated by Havens, U.S. Patent No. 5,296,769. In reviewing Havens, it was noted that the Applicant's invention is distinguished from Havens in that the Applicant's invention includes radially outward opening apertures that direct airflow to the first plurality of vanes. These apertures are employed so that the first plurality of vanes are oriented in an axial manner and not directly across from the fan blade tips, as discussed on page 3, lines 22-23 through page 4, lines 1-9. With that in mind, the Applicant has amended claims 1, 5, and 8 to include the limitation of plural apertures defined by an outer periphery of the plate that open radially outward to direct airflow to the first plurality of vanes. In contrast, Haven employs slot-like openings formed inward from the outer periphery that extend at angles to the outer periphery such that they do not open radially outward. Since Havens does not disclose the invention as claimed in amended claims 1, 5, and 8, the Applicant believes that these claims and those that depend from them are patentably distinct from Havens and respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-10.

Separately, the Applicant has added new claims 11-12 directed to the previously unclaimed feature that the first plurality of vanes are formed radially outward of the second plurality of vanes, which extend downward from the lower surface of the plate. Support for these claims may be found in Figs. 4 and 7, as well as the description on page 3, line 23 through

page 4, line 2 and page 4, line 21 through page 5, line 2. Since the formation of the first plurality of vanes extending radially outward from the plate and a second plurality extending downward from the lower surface of the plate is not shown in the applied patent, the Applicant believes that claims 11 and 12 are in condition for allowance.

In light of the foregoing, the Applicant believes that claims 1-12 are in condition for allowance and earnestly requests notice of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shannon V. McCue', is written over a horizontal line.

Shannon V. McCue, Reg. No. 42,859
Renner, Kenner, Greive, Bobak, Taylor & Weber
First National Tower - Fourth Floor
Akron, Ohio 44308-1456
Telephone: (330) 376-1242
Facsimile: (330) 376-9646

Attorney for Applicant